

Profile: Dr. Robert Morton Personnel Chief Must Staff City's Schools

Dr. Robert C. Morton performs the ponderous task of staffing schools that make up the Torrance Unified School District.

He has held his post in TUSD as assistant superintendent of schools for personnel for almost 5 years, making sure that Torrance children are taught by the best educators available.

Dr. Morton was born in 1915 to a family of Kansas farmers. After his graduation from high school at Waverly, Kans., he attended Fort Scott Junior College where he received his state teaching credential in 1934.

His first venture into professional education was in a rural school district in Nebraska — where he earned the princely sum of \$45 per month.

He returned to Waverly after two years in Nebraska, and was named teaching principal at a local elementary school. In 1939 he entered Kansas State Teachers' College.

In 1941, Dr. Morton enlisted in the Army, where he achieved the rank of Captain. Stationed in the Hawaiian Islands and Christmas Island, he served as a military personnel officer — his first taste of personnel work.

In 1942, he married Helen, a girl he had met while attending Kansas State Teachers' College. After his release from the Army in 1946, he went on to complete his degree in education from Emporia College in Kansas.

He earned his master's degree in record time from Claremont College, and went to work for the Torrance District in 1947. This was the year Torrance separated from the Los Angeles City School System and Dr. Morton was appointed principal of Perry Elementary School that year. He served in that capacity



DR. ROBERT MORTON

for three years, while Mrs. Morton was employed by Los Angeles City Schools.

After three years as principal of Torrance Elementary School, Dr. Morton was appointed to the position of assistant superintendent for personnel.

Not only does he supervise the posting of teaching vacancies in 48 states, Dr. Morton goes personally to many colleges to recruit specialists in areas of imbalance.

He is past president of the Southern California Association of School Personnel Administrators and is currently treasurer of that organization. He is also a member of the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Morton has been a Kiwanian for 17 years in Torrance.

Dr. Morton received his doctorate in 1960 from USC.

"Administration requires the knowledge of teaching conditions," Dr. Morton says, "and that is the reason every administrator has had at least five

years of classroom teaching experience before he was considered for an administrative post."

Top-notch administrators are always the top teachers. This, Dr. Morton asserts, is the reason for the rule. "Teaching experience makes for good understanding of the problems of teachers," he says, "and a good teacher will usually make a fine administrator."

Fishing is Dr. Morton's favorite pastime, and he cites trout fishing at Crowley Lake as his most successful combo. He claims Mrs. Morton is quite an angler, too, and she accompanies him on all his expeditions.

Traveling is another of the Mortons' hobbies, and this summer they visited Kansas, Arizona, and British Columbia.

"Although you can't beat airlines for business trips," Dr. Morton reports, "the only way to travel on pleasure trips is by car; we love to sightsee on the way to our destination."

Is a fisherman-personnel chief a strange combination? Maybe not. For if the trout people stock Crowley Lake as well as Dr. Morton and his staff stock the Torrance classrooms, it likely will be a very good year for trout fishermen.

VOLUNTEERS BUSY

More than nine million hours in volunteer services were contributed by over 100,000 individuals at Veterans Administration hospitals last year.

Swimming Practice Continues

Torrance swimmers who wish to workout or participate with a team during the winter months may use the Mira Costa High School pool, available four evenings a week.

The pool has been rented by the Torrance Swim Team Association which has finished its 1968 season. The group will resume practice at the City Plunge next May.

The workout schedule at Mira Costa High School for the coming months will be Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

Cost to each of the participants for the use of the pool will be \$5 per month. The money may be paid to Harry Plotkin, president of the Torrance Swim Association, or to Tim Holton, swim coach.

Mira Costa High School is located on Artesia Boulevard, between Sepulveda and Peck Avenues.

New Lights Planned in Carson Area

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has announced that 65 new street lights will be installed in an area near Carson bounded by Normandie and Vermont Avenues, Torrance Boulevard, and 204th Street.

Hahn said the Board of Supervisors has approved the formation of a street lighting district in this area and is hopeful the lights can be installed by March, 1969.

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Wife of Diplomat To Speak

Lady Caradon, wife of Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs, will speak on "The Power of Women" Tuesday, Jan. 7, as part of an "Emphasis on Women" program at El Camino College.

The lecture program will begin at 8 p.m. in the campus auditorium. Admission is free and open to the community on campus.

Since her marriage to Lord Caradon in 1936, Lady Caradon has shared the varied experiences of her husband's diplomatic career in widely separated sectors of the globe.

LORD CARADON was the last British governor of Cyprus during the years of violence and bloodshed prior to a settlement that established Cyprus as an independent republic.

Lady Caradon tells of these last violent years in her book "Emergency Exit," described by a London newspaper as the story of a "warm-hearted, vivacious and witty woman."

'Wait Until Dark' Cast Announced

Casting for the mystery-suspense drama "Wait Until Dark" has been completed by the Long Beach Community Players.

The play, directed by James Brittain, will be presented at Community Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, on Friday and Saturday evenings for six weeks beginning Friday, Jan. 3. Benefits will be scheduled Tuesdays at 7:45 p.m.

The following players have been selected: Gina Haldane, Susy Hendrix, Eliot Allen, Harry Roat, Dennis Robbins, Mike Thomas Petrus, the Polke; Thomas Petrus, Gloria; and Charles DeHart, Sam Hendrix. The play revolves around a blind housewife, the men who terrorize her, and a mysterious doll.

Visit to Santa's Village Planned for Youngsters

Area children and adults will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus and Rudolph Thursday, Jan. 2, through a field trip sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Buses will be leaving at 8 a.m. for the trip to the "Never, Never Land" located in the Big Bear Mountain area and will return at 5 p.m.

The cost of the field trip for children 4 to 16 years old is \$2.75 and \$3 for adults which will include transportation, insurance, admission to the village and two free rides. Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is being taken at all supervised parks and play-

grounds. The buses will be leaving from Walteria Park, 3855 W. 242nd St., Victor Park, 4727 Emerald St. and McMaster Park, 3624 W. Artesia Blvd. Children are advised to dress warmly.

SAME BENEFITS
Widows and children of veterans with service after Aug. 4, 1964, are eligible for pensions on the same basis as all other veterans.

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